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# Practice to Policy: Statewide Reform Efforts rooted in Local Initiatives

*Sustaining Louisiana Juvenile Justice Best Practices:  
Institute for Public Health and Justice,  
Leveraging Success for Future Reform*

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# Background

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- Track Record of Successful State – Academic Partnership with LSUHSC providing Louisiana ‘s Juvenile’s Secure System with dental, medical and mental health care via a US DOJ Settlement Agreement (2000-2006)
- Louisiana’s selection as one of the four primary Models for Change sites reflected the state’s commitment to ongoing and significant reform in its juvenile justice system and the MacArthur Foundation’s belief that the state would be a productive partner in support of its mission based on recent reform efforts for secure care.
- From the beginning, it was a shared vision of the MacArthur Foundation and the Board of Regents (the original home of the Louisiana Models for Change Lead Entity) that this work should continue long after the life of the grant.
- This required a conscious and thoughtful shift from local implementation to state-level dissemination and the challenges of sustainability.

# The Challenge

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- As Louisiana Models for Change entered its final phase, significant thought was given to the development of a long-term sustainability plan for the effort based upon the needs of the state and its leaders, stakeholders.
- This began an examination of the best structure to sustain the advances that have been made, so that they become part of the fabric of Louisiana's policy making going forward. This included envisioning a "home" for this structure.
- The vision for a sustainable academic partner for long term Juvenile Justice reform was long hoped for in past legislation such as HCR 94 by Rep. Mitch Landrieu (of the 2001 Regular Session), which established working groups that ultimately led to the passage of Act 1225 (of the 2003 Regular Session), which formally provides for *"the establishment of a research council with one of its purposes to promote at one or more of the state's universities the development of centers of excellence and specialization in child welfare and juvenile justice clinical, research and educational services.."*

# A Sustainable Design

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- Based on the experience of past years, there were certain elements that were demonstrably important to sustainable design, including:
  - The participation of key stakeholders, which include, at minimum, the state’s child-serving agencies (juvenile justice, child welfare, behavioral health and education); the state’s judicial, prosecutorial and defender systems; the academic community; the state’s policy leadership; state advocates for children, youth and family; and key funding sources.
  - Formal linkages among the stakeholders around a shared vision.
  - Capacity to analyze data and recommend changes in practices and policy.
  - Committed leadership.
  - A presence in the capital city, wherever the structure is ultimately housed.

# How we got there

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- In May 2009, the MacArthur Foundation provided the services of the Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc., to aid the Board of Regents in stakeholder discussions and decisions regarding the future structure and operations of a “sustainable entity” that would house Louisiana Models for Change Initiative, as well as be positioned to meet future needs:
  - Stakeholders included representatives of the Governor’s Office, JJIC, Office of Juvenile Justice, Louisiana Board of Regents, LSU System/LSUHSC-NO, Louisiana Supreme Court, Louisiana District Attorneys Association, Juvenile Defenders Office, and others.
- By January 2010, a unanimous agreement was reached among the parties that Louisiana Models for Change needed to transition from the offices of the Board of Regents into a free-standing academic/research/service institute to be administratively housed in the School of Public Health within LSUHSC-NO.
  - Thus, the initial planning for the Institute began.

# The Institute

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- The mission of the LSUHSC-NO Institute for Public Health and Justice is *to foster greater intersection of the best practices of behavioral issues with the application of appropriate and effective justice interventions.*
  - While the initial focus of the LA Models for Change had been particularly on juvenile justice, it was clear that many of lessons learned so far could be applied to many other behavioral health settings.

Such as addressing all Youth in the Criminal Justice System

Areas of Expertise include:

Evidence – Based Practices for Behavioral Health and “At Risk” populations

Program Design and Implementation

Training and Education of Professionals in the System

Policy Development

Data Analysis and Use of Data for Informed Decision Making

Models for Higher Education Partnerships

# The Road to Sustainability

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*The Institute for Public Health and Justice set forth the following goals:*

- Fulfill the role of Lead Entity for the MacArthur Foundation's Louisiana Models for Change initiative.
- Develop the final mission/vision/goals/areas of concentration of the Institute (to include policy development, technical assistance/consultation, behavioral workforce capacity development, outcome evaluation and data analysis).
- Finalize the Institute's organizational structure including key partnerships.
- Secure long-term funding to ensure the Institute's sustainability.

# The Road to Sustainability

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Step 1: Louisiana Models for Change placed under the authority of the Louisiana Board of Regents

Step 2: Louisiana Models for Change is moved to the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center School of Public Health in order to create a permanent home for the effort

Step 3: With full support of the LSU system and the La BOR, the Institute for Public Health and Justice (within the LSUHSC School of Public Health) was born as the new and final home of the La Models for Change.

Step 4: The Institute is currently exploring other resources of funding for the continuation of reform work in the state as well as around the US.



# Recent IPHJ Activities

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- As the home of the Louisiana Models for Change initiative, the IPHJ has continued to serve as the Lead Entity of the initiative and has continued its assistance and collaboration with all Louisiana Models for Change grantees to ensure success of their programs.
- Today's Conference was developed and hosted by IPHJ with support from the MacArthur Foundation
- The Juvenile Justice Study Commissioned to the Institute:  
the Juvenile Justice Implementation Commission in 2011, to evaluate improvements made to the juvenile justice system over the preceding five years and to issue recommendations for a five-year plan for juvenile justice reform. Since being commissioned, IPHJ has been conducting its analysis, gathering data, and developing a draft of the report findings and recommendations.
  - A Full report has been submitted to the JJIC ;
  - Summary Results will also be presented in today's luncheon presentation

# Recent IPHJ Activities

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- IPHJ, with the approval of the JJIC, worked with key stakeholders to schedule and conduct three consensus building meetings in September of 2012. Meeting attendees were public defenders, district attorney's and assistant district attorney's, detention facility operators, judges – from district and city courts, probation officers, and state juvenile justice staff.
  - The goal of these meetings was multi-purpose (1) to test the draft findings and recommendations from the study, (2) to see what findings and recommendations, if any, the attendees could agree on as important next steps in juvenile justice reform, and (3) to facilitate connections across the juvenile justice system by engaging a diverse group of stakeholders.

# Results of consensus building meetings

## Overall areas of consensus emerged and are as follows:

- Improved services and service delivery in the juvenile justice system
- Further development of juvenile justice best practices for:
  - Status Offenders (Informal FINS)
  - Detention Reform – particularly Alternatives to Detention
  - Graduated Sanction Model for Probation
  - A true “post-placement” Aftercare System
- Support for ongoing data and training resource for juvenile justice system
- Sustained levels of funding for an effective juvenile justice system (a.k.a. Missouri Model)
- Reinvestment in community and local resources
- Establishment of an infrastructure that would serve as a resource for M2 ongoing juvenile justice reform.

*\*Note: A more detailed fact sheet of the consensus building meetings can be found in your conference meeting packet.*

**Slide 11**

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**M2**

can you add a slide that outlines what the consensus said about the ongoing resource?

MacArthur, 1/24/2013

# IPHJ Future Activities

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- IPHJ will be tallying feedback from all conference participants
- IPHJ will be finalizing La MfC Models for future replication
- Replication of EBP Dissemination Model
- Partnership with the University of Louisiana Lafayette – Juvenile Justice Program and Picard Center
- Developing Future Partners: The Institute offers a menu of services
  - Data Analysis and Interpretation
  - Policy Development and Implementation
  - Technical Assistance and Training
  - Program Evaluation and Analysis

*\*Note: A more detailed fact sheet of services and partnerships available through IPHJ can be found in your conference meeting packet.*

# Conclusion

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## *Questions and Comments?*

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